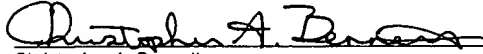


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Date: October 2, 2001


Christopher A. Bennett

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Takashi SHIKAMA, et al. Serial No.: 09/401,080 Filing Date: September 22, 1999 For: COMPOSITE INDUCTOR ELEMENT	Art Unit: 2832 Examiner: T. Nguyen
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement issued on September 20, 2001, Applicants elect Group I, including Claims 1 and 3-11 for prosecution in the present application. This election is made **WITH** traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that, at this stage of prosecution, there is absolutely no additional burden on the Examiner to examine both of Groups I and II. The amendments made to independent claims 1 and 12 have not changed the scope of the claims to the extent that would justify a Restriction Requirement.

The Examiner has previously examined both of the Invention I and II on the merits in two earlier Office Actions, dated June 7, 2000 and February 28, 2001. The amendment made to claim 1 (Group I) merely added the features of claim 2 into claim 1,

and the amendment to claim 12 (Group II) merely clarifies the language of the last subparagraph, and did not substantially alter the scope of the claim. Particularly, claim 12 has been amended to change the last subparagraph from "a plurality of electromagnetically close-coupled coils buried in said block, said coils being arranged in parallel and being constructed of spirally-wound parallel-wire lines made of a plurality of insulation-coated conductors" to --at least one spirally-wound parallel wire line buried block and including a plurality of electromagnetically close-coupled coils, the plurality of electromagnetically close-coupled coils being wound around a single coil axis and defined by insulation-coated conductors--.

Claim 12, including either of these subparagraphs, clearly recites the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 9. The Examiner has previously examined this embodiment in the two earlier Office Actions noted above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no additional burden to continue examining both of Inventions I and II. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Further, the Examiner maintains that Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations usable together in a single combination, and that Invention II has separate utility such as protected shielding for a single coil device. However, Invention II is not directed solely to "a protective shielding", but rather is directed to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 9, and is not disclosed as being usable with the invention of Group I, nor would there be any reason to use the inventions of Group I and II together.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Restriction Requirement.

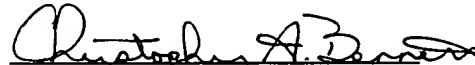
Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a Divisional Application to pursue prosecution of the non-elected claims 12, 17-18 and 20.

Serial No. 09/401,080
Art Unit 2832

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 2, 2001



Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: (703) 385-5200
Facsimile: (703) 385-5080